Benjjii A Bengal Tiger

Act I Scene I

Benjjii was a Bengal Tiger, but even Bengal Tigers have grandfathers.
His grandfather told him that waking up every day was the greatest thing. It was true.
Benjjii was always happy to see the sun rise, and look forward to playing with his friends.

It was nice to be an Bengal Tiger, Benjjii thought, but in the last three seasons, so many of his friends were leaving.
Mama said that a change was coming to the cold lands.
It was not like any change they had ever seen.
Even Old Grandfather Bengal Tiger, the oldest member of his family, said that in all his seasons he never saw a change like this one.

Benjjii heard his father and mother arguing about when they might move the family to another place.
They argued about where that place would be, and how they would find it .
This was the reason Benjjii lost some sleep at nights.
The great sleep was such a nice part of being an Bengal Tiger, but now he worried that tigers might not sleep so well this year.

The arguments did not interest him much, but one thing did.
Most of Benjjii's friends had already gone other places to live.
He was now starting to feel very much alone here.
This Change -- it was so difficult to understand.
Benjjii tried to imagine what the Change really was and he wondered why his parents were so worried about it.
He thought that there must be a way out of it.

When Benjjii saw a bit of the sun rise in a small circle on the sky line, she rose from his corner of the cave.
The walls of his cave were shining more this season than before.
Mama said that means that the trees are crying about the seasons that are coming.
Benjjii shook his head.

His mother and father usually had all the answers.
But now Benjjii saw that this slow Change in the waters worried his parents more than any other thing before.

It worried them more than the hunt for food.
It worried them more than protecting the family against many other tiger clans.
It even worried his parents more than the big snake who ate tiger cubs with their long tails.

Mama was almost ready to have another tiger baby this summer, so the cave was the only place his parents stayed now, on most days.
Benjjii liked the idea of having another tiger around.
However, his mother said that it might be a long time before she could play with the new baby tiger.

Now Benjjii stretched a bit.
He had a hard time getting up.
Finally, he started to rise, and the jungle floor over the hard rocks felt good and solid under his feet.
Benjjii took a few steps to be sure he could walk.

He shook away the sleep in his head.
Slowly he started to walk toward the small light that shined in the open front hole of the cave.

When Benjjii came to the cave's opening, he smelled the air for the usual smell of his parents.
He was troubled when he saw them.
Both of his parents were in a deep sleep at the other end of the cave.
He was a little surprised, because he knew that this deep sleep gave his dreams of colorful rainbows and strange sounds.

Now Benjjii's body shook, and he looked outside.
He saw that the weather was hot, and stood wondering what to do.
He was sorry that his parents were worried, and fell into the deep sleep.
But now a bright idea came to his mind.
Slowly, as he thought long and hard about it, the idea took shape.
It frightened him, but it also made him start to warm up.

Benjjii had never tried to plan something like this, but each time

the idea started to disappear, his mind moved somewhere else.
Then the start of the next step came to him very easily.

What if I can find a good place to live for our tribe?
I am almost grown full and I can take care of my self as a hunter.
I can make my parents happy for me, and the tribe will thank my family.

Benjjii knew that his parents must stay in the cave for one moon waiting for the baby to come.
That should be plenty of time to find a new home for the tribe.
He decided not to be afraid, and Benjjii put his nose into the wind.
He could see the great waters and he moved toward it.
He started off to the far edge of their ground.
his inner spirit guided his on this new trip in his young life.

As the cave became a small line on the back of his eyes, he heard a small voice inside of his:
"This is what you are going to do for your tribe.
Be strong and listen to your inner spirit.
We will be safe, and we will find just what we are seeking for the family."

Act I Scene II

Benjjii did not remember the walk as so long. The waterfall seems to be far away.
The sun is high and bright. Makes the glare hurt his eyes.
Each step seems so heavy. his mouth is dry and rough.
his tummy starts to rumble. Need some food soon.

Over the next rise will be food. He knows it is true.
His head sinks a bit lower. His nose catches a scent.
Licking his lips now he walks faster. The rise is shining.
Waterfall. Ahhhhhh.
As he struggles over the rise, he stops. What is this thing with a glow?

Slowly Benjjii walks towards the glow. his eyes go wide in a

small fear.

Can it be? He sees a wide band of color. Like the night sky colors. The Aurora.

His feet draw his closer. And closer as the smell of food is strong.

One more step and ahhhhh what is that? A waterfall. Dipping his nose into water.

It is fresh and wonderful taste. He drinks deep and long. It is sweet and cold.

Under his nose he sees a movement. A large grey furry mammal walks up for a drink.

With a quick paw he swats the animal on the rocks. With a quick snap of his jaws, the animal goes quickly. Benjjii thanks the gods for his meal. Just as Mama told him to do.

Slipping behind a small ledge on the tree root Benjjii sat down. Licking his paws and nose clean. The meat was good and the water sweet. Slowly his head rested on his paws. Soon, he was deep asleep and dreaming. The colors were back and now shiny points of light. The deep Bengal Tiger sleep took him away. A soft dim light glowed over him from the tree roots.

Act 2 Scene 1

Benjjii woke slowly and noticed that the Tsenden tree root was rocking.
Rubbing his eyes he slowly looked up and stopped his breath.
Where Am I? As his eyes moved all he saw was water
The tree root was in the middle of a great river. He cried a bit.

Standing, he walked around the tree root
On every side was nothing but water
As far as he could see
Sitting down he scratched his ear
And tried to think and remember

Closing his eyes Benjjii tried hard
Salty tears stung his eyes
At once the last thought came back
And all of a sudden he remembered

Slowly his eyes opened sadly

Looking once blinks then again

Is that..is that a jungle bird over there?

Now this is odd he thought

Walking a bit closer he saw the bird was asleep

Stepping closer……closer…he sniffed the air

And the bird awoke and fluttered it's wings

Shocking them both only a small distance away

Benjjii fell down trying to back step

As the bird flew up to the top of a root

Both looked closely at the other

Not getting any closer and a bit afraid.

With a smile he became quieter

The Bird suddenly started squawking

And for some reason he could understand it

“Just call me Puffy” but I am “Mr. Langhorn Puffin” to others

He shook with a cough. I am Benjjii standing as tall as he was

Benjjii started to talk and tell his story

As Puffy groomed and heard and the light shifted lower

Act 2 Scene 2

Benjjii starts to talk about the dreams he had:

At the beginning nothing makes sense to me.

Then I go to the tiger sleep.

I can see colors and lights

And a voice tells me about the Change.

Puffy, do you know what this Change is?

Puffy pulls his feathers close and cleans them.

Looking down at Benjjii he starts to speak:

I have those same dreams too.

I hear the voices of the old ones.

They speak as one: "The Change is Coming."

They talk about how our Mother Earth is good,

How we must all change with his feelings and his surprises.

To survive we must adapt together.

Working together, we will forget the old problems.

He stops speaking and looks out to the forest.

As though hearing a sound, Puffy spreads his wings

And at once is flying to the edge of the sky.

Soon Benjjii is sad to be alone and starts to cry softly,

Feels his eyes get heavy and his middle turns from hunger.

Soon the light decreases, as he rests on the tree root,

And the sleep takes him and he dreams again.

Act 3 Scene 1

As the light moves higher that day,

Benjjii feels that his tree rooting island is rolling.

All the way around there is water and no land.

He cries a bit, but he sees only waves and sky.

His middle-body makes a sound from no food.

He stands and walks around his Tsenden roots slowly.

All at once he sees a fish.

No... more than one fish..two..three..four fish.

All the fish land at his feet. With a grab of his mouth

Benjjii has a great meal and his middle is quiet.

He tongues his hair coat and offers silent thanks

To the fish gods for their help and food.

His eye catches a shimmering of color over his head.

As he stands, all at once he sees the color swirl.

Turning to his side he sees a light colored flyer,

Circling round his head. Benjjii steps back in fear.

It is not a flyer that Benjjii has ever seen anywhere

He walks around on the tree root and drinks some water.

As Benjjii stands near the pool of water to drink,

He hears a flyers wings behind him and jumps a bit.

He turns to see a colorful cover floating over his nose,

And he moves back in fear of this thing.

The two creatures wait, and they watch each other.

This is the first time either one has seen anything like the other.

A voice starts to speak and Benjjii knows the words.

He can not believe his ears as He listens.

“Do not be afraid of my colors,” says the flyer.

“All of my tribe are like me. I am Bhuta, a Bhutan Glory butterfly. I have flown here all day and found this Tsenden roots. What kind of flyer are you? I do not see anyone like you ever in my forest.”

Benjjii did not know what to think about that.

“I am not a flyer. I am Benjjii. I am an Bengal Tiger. And this is my magic Tsenden roots.

I am looking for a new home for my tribe.

The Change is Coming and we need to leave our home soon.

Bhuta closes her wings and Benjjii thinks that she smiles.

“We have that same thing in our home,” Bhuta says.

“The tribe is sad that we have to leave our long time home forest.

But there is no food and the water is so different now.”

They talk and talk about their homes and friends for a long time.

Then, Benjjii stops and asks a question.

“How did You find me in this big water?”

Bhutan closes her wings again and sort of smiles.

“Your Magic Tsenden roots leaves a trail behind”

It is a magical spread of colors like we see in our forest waters back home.”

“I just follow the trail to see what made this,

And here You are!”

Benjjii and Bhuta stop and rest after the long talk.

He looks at his new friend and asks

“Can we be new friends even though we are not the same?”

Bhuta then closes her wings, and does something good.

She flutters along side the Tsenden roots

And puts her wings around Benjjii's nose gently.

Benjjii touches her wings with his nose and shakes from the light touch.

Now he and Bhuta are new friends and both are happy.

“Now we are friends, Benjjii, but I must go to tell my family about our talks, and share what 'The Change' is with my friends.”

Bhuta starts to flap her wings and soon is a small dark speck in the distant trees.

Benjjii sits and looks as her colorful wings a few times.

A big stream of water each time shows how fast Bhuta flies.

After such a long day, and so much to think about,

Benjjii slips slowly down a wall on the Tsenden roots.

Before he knows it, he goes fast asleep

And the dreams start anew in colors and bright lights.

Act 3 Scene 2

As Benjjii dreams again, a voice comes to him:

“I am the voice of all who have come before You.

The Change is Coming and all creatures will need to adapt.”

Benjjii moves a little in his sleep and a soft cry comes from his mouth.

Softly he lies down again and soon is deep asleep.

The voice returns in a dream of colors and waves.

“You will meet many new friends on Your adventure.

Each of these friends will be easy for You to listen to.
Their words will make sense to You as Yours will to them.”

The sound of the Old Ones swims through his head.

Small circles of color and sharp lights reflect in back of his eyes,

Closed tight in restless sleep as he moves and shakes.

The voice continues to speak in his dream.

“Mother Earth has always taken care of her friends.

The Change is part of being in her family.

All creatures have been able to adapt over time.

In our time we would move and find new homes.
You can do this as it is part of our being.”

“There is no need to be afraid anymore.

The Change is universal and good for all creatures. We will help You find the way to adapt.

Share what You learn with all Your New Friends.”
The voice becomes soft and low.

Benjjii slowly rolls over and drops into deeper sleep.

The sun drops beneath the waters on the line of the sky.

The stars now awaken in the dark above.

The magic Tsenden roots moves with the current

And leads Benjjii to his next exciting experience.